



THE FARMERS TALK TO FARMERS

MAKING FARMING PAY ITS WAY

(Written Specially For The Bulletin.)

Out west a large number of farmers who are specially devoted to grain-growing have formed an organization called The Farmers' Grain Marketing Committee. The simple purpose of this organization is to devise methods of selling grain whereby the farmer who produces it shall be enabled to secure decent returns for himself. Our new secretary of agriculture made his first public address before this organization at Chicago, April 8. I have just been able to obtain a complete report of that address and have read it with much interest. It is interesting to other farmers who find it worth while to get a glimpse at what is in the secretary's mind. At the same time, some who are non-farmers ought to be interested in what this official head of the country's rural production says about the producers' present condition.

Secretary Wallace evidently agrees with some of us widely known farmers that publicity is really about the most useful weapon there is for fighting against abuses. He laid much stress on his talk to the grain-growers on what his department was trying to do along this line, especially in regard to marketing costs. His remarks may be summarized in this quotation:

"Such inquiry as the department may make into this matter of marketing costs should be with the sole purpose of getting at and making known the facts in order that improvements may be made and costs lessened." This service, he said, "the department is glad to render to organizations of farmers co-operating or otherwise." And he went on: "Let me make it equally clear that the same sort of service will be rendered with the same good will to everyone who has anything to do with marketing our crops and who is striving to improve his marketing methods."

"It is the purpose of the department to do everything it can to improve our marketing system to the end that both producer and consumer may receive better service at less cost, and its services are available to everyone who is interested in this matter."

These last eight words cover a wide spread. They include, or ought to include every man and woman in the country who either produces or consumes. And that means all of us.

"As to the need for improvement of the necessary did not mince words. He said: 'At this particular time prices of practically all farm products are not only far below the actual cost of production but are, relatively to better times, prices of other basic commodities. Prices of many of the larger farm crops are well below the pre-war normal, while almost none of them are above it. At the same time the basic commodities which enter into practically everything which farmers buy are from 50 to 100 per cent, or more, above pre-war normal.'"

"He did not wonder that farmers should be seeing red, nor that thousands of them should feel ready to adopt any measures, however drastic, which gave hope of correcting a condition 'so grossly unjust,' and causing such widespread hardship and suffering."

"He concluded his address by hitting straight out from his shoulder at what he deems to be the most notable failure among farmers themselves. 'This nation cannot hope to maintain its agriculture on a sound economic basis unless our farmers give attention to the business end of farming. 'As large producers they have been the best in the world. 'As salesmen they have been very poor. 'When prices have been good they have been happy. When they have been low they have been miserably and struck out blindly, vainly seeking relief in ways that were utterly hopeless. Constructive action in a large way has been entirely lacking.'"

"You and I probably have no exaggerated idea of so-called 'business.' Our chief experiences with it have been those of getting stung by it whenever we go. Like flies into the spider's web. At the same time, in this world of various imperfections, among which 'human nature' is probably the most pitifully deformed and distorted of any, it is not surprising that we must know, if we have any reason, that the only way to attain practical ends is 'by adopting practical means. 'Folks may dream of deals, and martyrs may yield up their lives in devotion to them. But those who would like in Rome must do as the Romans do. We are not moving in a terrestrial paradise among impossible saints of both sexes, but in a very seamy world made up of, mostly, very seamy people."

"If agriculture is a business and is to be made a business success, it must adopt, at least till it can reform them, the methods of other business. In that, the secretary is indubitably right."

"But, oh, the difference between writing or talking glibly about it and actually doing it!

Several times in this column we have treated over the almost superhuman fortitude which are required in the man who would be a successful modern farmer. He must know as much about soils as a soil expert; he must know as much about animals as a biologist; he must know as much about insect pests as an entomologist; he must know as much about blights as a microscopist; he must know as much about weather as a meteorologist; he must know as much about machines as a machinist; and he must be a first-class bang-up, A. No. One laborer—all at the wages of the latter, unless he happens to have had luck, in which case he gets no wages at all but pays for the privilege!

And now, the secretary says, and conditions seem to confirm him therein, every farmer must also be a capable and winning salesman.

Quite a man-sized job, that of yours, fellow hayseed, is it not? Hardly one to be tossed over to 'the fool of the family,' is it? Nor one meriting the sneers of outsiders? Nor the envy of suburban law lords who nightly bewail themselves that they can't get away from the city and 'live happily ever after'?

Like the hero and heroine of the novel, on a little farm with a little town and a little hen-coop forever filled with little chickens immune to guinea and miasma by rats?

Now the thing is going to be done, punctually, I own up to complete ignorance. For illustration: We are informed that there are now in storage about 4,000 more carloads of old onions than usual at this time of year. Also, that the new southern onion-crop, damaged by exceptionally warm weather, looks three weeks ahead of time, and likely, almost any day, to further close the market. And I note in one western daily paper an advertisement of "the finest yellow onions" for sale at nine

THE HOME JOY

Precious the home, though but a rifted rock
Where way-worn shepherd carries with his flock!
Precious the friendly covert, though it be
Only the shelter of a lonely tree.
Dear is that world-old, warm, heart-pulling thing —
To man and beast and bird one gladdening!
Dear is the roof, the hole, the lair, the nest —
Hid places where the heart can be at rest.

But home will sweeten as the years go by,
Greatening the soul and lifting the low sky —
When beauty shall step downward from her star
To smile away the blemish and the scar —
When science shall draw down Orion's band
To ease the burden of the woman's hand —
When all the power of earth and air and fire
Shall be the lackeys of the heart's desire.

Yes, home will sweeten in the coming days,
When widening love shall warm these human ways —
When every mother, pressing to her face
Her child shall clasp all children of the race.
Then will the rafter and the oaken beam
Then earth, as far as flies the feathered foam,
Be laid in music and the poet's dream —
Shall have in it the friendly feel of home.

—Edwin Markham, in Good Housekeeping.

applications for membership were received. At the conclusion of the meeting about 80 persons were entertained at supper by the order.

There will be a demonstration of the Lalley electric light, at Yeoman's hall, Columbia, Saturday evening, April 23 by Wood and Laid of Willimantic, agents for the C. S. Merwick Co., of New Haven, distributors. The demonstration will take place during a meeting for the formation of a village improvement society.—adv.

ELLINGTON

An interesting meeting of the Christian Endeavor society was held Sunday evening in charge of Elmer Hardy, Tolland County T. M. C. A. secretary. The topic was "How to Improve Our Resolutions."

The Ellington Cemetery association has secured Roland Morris to care for the Center cemetery. He is an ex-service man and before entering the service was employed in one of the cemeteries in Hartford.

The W. C. T. U. held an interesting meeting in library hall, Wednesday afternoon.

A special meeting of Ellington grange was held Wednesday evening to confer the third and fourth degrees, the work being done by the Ellington degree team. A harvest supper was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hale entertained the Center Whist club at their home on Tuesday evening. The ladies' first prize was won by Mrs. Frank Piton and the gentlemen's first prize went to Fred Arens.

Miss Harriet Gannett, a teacher in Bridgewater, Mass., high school, is spending the vacation with her aunt, Mrs. E. B. Kibbe, of Maple street.

Mrs. Irving L. Smith and son, Milton, returned Tuesday to Waterbury, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Charter. George F. Slater has bought a farm in Somers and with his family will move there next week.

Mrs. C. M. Perry has returned home after spending the winter in Warehous Point.

Mrs. Oliver Forand arrived here on Wednesday from New York to open her home on Burr avenue for the summer.

Miss Carrie Noble, who is teaching in Bristol spent the week end at her home here.

There were many visitors in town on Wednesday to attend the auction at Mrs. A. R. Thrall's, when her household furniture, including many antiques, was sold.

Br. and Mrs. E. Lewis of Spring-

field, have been guests of Mrs. Lewis' father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Aborn.

WAUREGAN

Mr. and Mrs. Bethell entertained Mr. and Mrs. Labonte of White Rock over the week end.

Mrs. Arthur Spencer (Ethel Swan) of Waterbury spent several days here last week with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hoyle, of New Bedford, were guests over Sunday of their daughter, Mrs. Harold Wingnoll.

Rev. William Feilings was at Central Village Tuesday at the six churches conference meeting. A number of persons went down for the evening service.

Mrs. Fred Jones and family of Portsmouth, spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Henry Leach.

Visitors with Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Leavens last week were Mr. and Mrs. D. Grant of Glastonbury, Conn., and Newton Johnson of Portchester, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moffitt of Pithsburg, Mass., visited here over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wingnoll are entertaining Mrs. Wignall's mother from New Bedford, this week.

Mrs. Bertha Worden of New Bedford is visiting relatives here for a few days.

Mrs. Thomas Hughes, who has been selling in New Bedford for some weeks, is back for the summer.

Misses Dorothy and Helen Woods are planning a trip to Iceland and Norway, France and England.

The first drill of the Atwood Hose company was held Tuesday evening. The entire company with the exception of a couple of sick members, responded and all gave a good account of themselves. Three hundred feet of hose was laid and attached to the hydrant and there was a good water pressure, showing the water works to be capable of taking care of any fire which may occur. The chemical auto truck has been repaired and the tanks on this truck were emptied with very good results. A few of such drills will put the firemen in shape to take care of any fire here or elsewhere.

Wauregan Congregational church, Rev. William Feilings, pastor. The Undutiful Son in His Social Relations, will be the subject of the Sunday morning sermon. The evening sermon will be on "The Beauty of Holiness." Church school at 12. Young People's meeting Thursday evening at 7:30.

In Japan, children's stockings resemble mittens, having a separate place for the great toe.

LISBON

The annual business meeting of the Ladies' Aid society was held at the parsonage Wednesday afternoon. Reports by Mrs. F. E. Hyde, secretary and Mrs. R. T. Read, treasurer, were read and approved. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. W. A. Read; vice presidents, Mrs. P. E. Hyde and Miss Lucy Baldwin; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. R. T. Read; collector, Miss Clara Hyde; directors, Mrs. Olaf Nelson, Mrs. E. W. Corbett, Mrs. W. J. Reynolds, Mrs. J. H. Kennedy, Miss Clara Hyde; table committee, Miss Sarah K. Adams, Miss Agnes Enquist, Miss Beatrice Read, Miss Clara Hyde, Miss Lucy Baldwin. A specified sum was voted toward the purchase of new hymn books for the church also to make some repairs at the parsonage.

This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Women's Missionary society. Miss Sarah Louise Hadley gave a most interesting and instructive talk on Schools in the Near East. Refresh-

ments were served at the close by Mrs. Reynolds, assisted by the table committee of the Ladies' Aid society.

Mrs. Joseph Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Howard and Miss Edna Howard of West Bridgewater, Mass. were callers at R. R. Barber's, Wednesday.

Charles Hudell has sold his farm and expects in a few months to go to South Dakota, where three of his sons are engaged in ranching.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Corbett have returned to their home in Newent for the summer.

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Plain and trimmed models, in fine quality navy tricotine. Not a suit made to sell less than \$55.00. They will appeal instantly to every woman and miss that appreciates smart styles, beautiful tailor finish, fine quality and exceptional value

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